Poverty alleviation programmes for SC/ST women in rural areas

1251. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the poverty alleviation programmes for women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in rural areas under which loans are being advanced by banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (*SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON*): The scheme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is exclusively designed for the poverty alleviation of women, which is a special component of the IRDP programme. Various income generating schemes under the Scheduled Castes Development Corporations and Tribal Development Corporations are linked with bank finance. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women are eligible to receive loans under the above schemes. There is a scheme to set up Women's Development Corporations in all the States to develop entrepreneurship among women, linked with institutional finance. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women are also covered under this programme.

News item captioned "Separate Ministry for handicapped urged"

1252. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news item appearing in the Indian Express of 10th April, 1989 under the heading 'Separate Ministry for handicapped urged to the effect that the Association for the Upliftment of Orthopaedically Disabled has urged the Central Government to set up a separate Ministry for the physically handicapped;

(b) whether the Association had also called for reservation of posts for the orthopaedically handicapped according to the capability of the disabled, in Group A and Group B services of the Central Government; and

(c) if the reply to parts (a) & (b) above be in the affirmative what steps Government propose to take to meet the said demands of the Association?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal for the setting up of a separate Ministry for the physically handicapped. Presently, reservations are available for the physically disabled in Group C and D posts in the Central Government. No such reservations are there in Group A and D services of the Central Government.

TV Transmitters in the country

1253. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Parliamentary Constituencies provided with High Power/Low Power Transmitters; and

(b) by when the remaining constituencies are likely to be provided with High Power or Low Power Transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) 504 Parliamentary constituencies out of a total of 543 are at present covered by TV service, either wholly or partially. Whereas TV transmitters are functioning in 253 of these constituencies, 251 constituen-

cies receive TV service from transmitters functioning in the adjoining areas. On completion of the various Seventh Plan schemes, all the Parliamentary constituencies in the country except five would be covered by TV service, either wholly or partially. It has been decided to extend TV service to the remaining five Parliamentary constituencies also during early Eighth Plan period, subject to availability of funds.

Observation of Disabled Day in India

1254. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the World Disabled Day observed in India;

(b) whether any special programmes launched in the country for the care of the disabled and handicapped persons;

(c) the details of the centres already functioning in the country for the above purpose;

(d) the funds allocated for the above purpose during the 7th Plan period and during the year 1989-90; and

(e) the number of disabled persons who have been suitably rehabilitated so far during the current Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) to (e) The World Disabled day in India is observed on the third Sunday of March every year. This year it was observed on 19th March 1989.

Athough Government of India did not launch any special programme on this day, several functions were held by the Central Government, the State Governments, the National Institutes and Voluntary Organisations to mark the occasion. The Government of India organised the National Awards function for outstanding work done by voluntary organisations, voluntary workers, disabled employees, employers and placement officers of the disabled and scientists working on technological inventions for the disabled. These awards are expected to provide encouragement and recognition to such persons. The State Governments, National Institutes and Voluntary Organisations held special sports and cultural programmes for the disabled.

The Government through its ongoing schemes continued to support programmes for the education, training, placement provision of artificial aids and appliances etc. to handicapped persons. A list of voluntary organisations funded by the Government in 1988-89, a list of District Rehabilitation Centres and a list of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres may be seen at Annexure, [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 64].

The funds allocated by the Central Government for welfare of handicapped during the Seventh Plan period may be seen as follows:—

Year	Amount allocated
	Rs. lakhs
1985-86 . . .	1457.62
1986-87 . . .	1511.32
1987-88 . . .	1716.08
1988-89 . . .	2033.90
1988-90 . . .	2172.50

Total number of persons estimated to have been benefited during 7th Plan so far from the schemes of grant-in-aid, District Rehabilitation Centres, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres Employment Exchanges is estimated to be approximately 2,56,185.